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often sought. He was a diligent reader of horticultural publications, and frequently contributed articles of interest to our garden periodicals, keeping almost to the last day of his life well informed as to all the movements in floriculture in all parts of the world.

After withdrawing from business, Mr. Hogg led a retired life, but lost none of his love for his favorite studies, for his leisure was spent in botanical and other scientific investigations. Much of his time was spent in visiting various libraries and florists' establishments in this city, and on several occasions he went abroad and visited the most celebrated botanical gardens in Europe. His last years were much broken by ill health caused by an attack of the influenza in Paris some two years since, from the effects of which he never fully recovered.

In manner Mr. Hogg was grave, dignified and reserved, but he was invariably cheerful, and genial and kindly in spirit. Among congenial companions his conversation was sprightly, and often strikingly original and interesting, but his modesty was so great that few except such companions ever learned how rich were his stores of knowledge, not only upon his favorite subjects, but also upon a wide range of other topics. His conversation sparkled with humorous anecdotes and shrewd observations upon the various people and scenes which he had encountered in the course of his long life.

Mr. Hogg was admitted to membership in the Torrey Botanical Club in 1882. In 1886 he was elected Vice President of the Club, and chosen annually to the same office until the time of his death, except during the year 1891, when he was absent in Europe. He was seldom absent from the meetings when at home, and frequently participated actively in the proceedings and discussions, greatly contributing to the interest of the occasion by his pertinent and entertaining remarks.

THOMAS MORONG.

Death of Dr. George Vasey.

Dr. George Vasey, Botanist of the United States Department of Agriculture and Honorary Curator of the National Herbarium, died at his home in Washington, March 4, 1893, after an illness of only a few days duration, of acute peritonitis. He had been absent from his office but four days, and the news of his death

came with almost equal suddenness to those at a distance from Washington and those intimately associated with him in his work.

At the request of Dr. Vasey's family, his friend Mr. William M. Canby has undertaken the preparation of a biographical memoir, to contain a more extended account of Dr. Vasey's life, work, and publications; and to him have been intrusted the data requisite for its compilation. It is necessary here, therefore, to give only an outline of his career.

George Vasey was born near Scarborough, England, February 28, 1822, of English parents; and in the following year was brought by them to America. His boyhood was spent in Central New York, where from his acquaintance with Dr. P. D. Kneskern, of Oriskany, he became interested at the early age of sixteen years in the study of the local flora. In 1847 he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and from 1848 to 1868 was engaged in the practice of his profession, residing during the principal part of that period in Northern Illinois.

As this point in Dr. Vasey's life his botanical knowledge, which had previously been held subsidiary to his profession of medicine, took upon itself a new character. In 1868 he accompanied Major J. W. Powell, in the position of botanist, on an exploring expedition to Colorado. A second similar expedition to the same region followed during the next year; in 1870 he was placed in charge of the Museum of the Illinois Natural History Society at Bloomington; and in 1872 he was called to Washington as Botanist of the United States Department of Agriculture. From this time until his death his efforts were devoted earnestly and unremittingly to his work, new as a profession, but old as a cherished pursuit.

The age of fifty seems late for the beginning of a scientific career. Up to that time Dr. Vasey had published only a few unimportant notes, but his preparation had been long, faithful, and opportune. He now began to publish papers one by one, at first on the subject of trees, afterward principally devoted to the Gramineæ. His activity seemed to increase with his age, and during the last year of his life he probably produced more matter for publication than during any earlier period of equal length. The second part of the "Grasses of the Pacific Slope" was already in the printer's hands at the time of his death, and the manuscript

for the concluding brochure of his "Monograph of the Grasses of the United States" was so near completion that it can be edited according to its author's plan.

Dr. Vasey's principal publications are too well known to require comment here, but we cannot omit a reference to the greatest and most lasting monument to his memory, the National Herbarium. To building up this great collection he devoted his most faithful energies, and the future student of American botany will give him well deserved honor for this bounteous legacy.

FREDERICK VERNON COVILLE.

Reviews of Foreign Literature.

Les Maladies Cryptogamiques des Cereales. Par J. Loverdo, Paris, 1892. This work of 300 pages and 35 figures, treats of the fungi parasitic upon wheat, rye, maize, barley, oats, sorghum, millet, rice and buckwheat, and under each species, the enemy, in the order of history, exterior characters, botanical aspect, condition of development, effect of the disease, and means of defense. Under bacteria, *Bacillus Sorghi*, Burl., is treated at length with figures after Kellerman. The Ustilagineæ are largely considered on pages 40 to 145, ten of the *Ustilagos* proper receiving treatment, three *Tilletias* and *Urocystis occulta*. The chapter upon the penetration of the ustilago germ is an interesting review of the modern view established by DeBary, Brefeld and others with its important economic bearings. Less space is given to the Uredineæ than the smuts, only *Puccinia graminis*, *P. rubigo-vera*, *P. coronata*, *P. Sorghi* and *P. purpurea* being given in particular. The figures are not of the best, those after DeBary and Cávara being much better than those d'après nature. The Ascomycetes brought to the front are *Erysiphe graminis*, *Sphærella exitralis*, and, of course, the Ergot (*Claviceps purpurea*), over thirty pages being given to this with several of Tulasne's cuts. A few pages are devoted to the imperfect forms of *Helminthosporiums* and *Septorias*. The practical vegetable pathologist can find in this work much to interest him at very small expense.

B. D. H.

On the Genus Myeloxylon, Brong. A. C. Seward. (Ann. Bot. vii. 1-20. Pl. 1, 2.) The author gives the results obtained from a